

NOVA SCOTIA NOVA SCOTIA

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Summer home to such American cultural icons as **Philip Glass** and **Richard Serra**, Atlantic Canada's **Nova Scotia** can deliver the goods, whether you're devoted to avant-garde contemporary art, or extraordinary crafts of the wood-and-wool variety. For visitors of every persuasion, bonuses include the backdrop of breathtakingly beautiful scenery, and cultural traditions unique to each provincial region. **Tourism Nova Scotia** designs its driving tours by the regions, so pick the ones that are the most appealing in their *Dreamers & Doers* guide (contact www.destination-n.s.com for your copy). Another handy publication is the *Guide to Craft & Art*, which lists galleries, museums, and artists' studios (www.craft-design.ns.ca).

Now for the highlights of our own virtual tour: We'll start at the furthest end of the peninsula, and beyond, on **Cape Breton Island**, seat of Canadian Celtic culture (note, Nova Scotia = New Scotland, founded by Sir William Alexander and King James in the 1600s; lots of Highlanders subsequently fled from the English in the 1700s and settled here as well). Thousands now converge here each year for fine fiddling, dancing, art, and more at the **Celtic Colours Festival** (www.celtic-colours.com). Too much tartan? Head to the **University Art Gallery of Cape Breton University in Sydney**, where the emphasis is on the new. This summer, they showcase some of the excellent artists currently working in Nova Scotia in an exhibition titled *In Here Out There* (June 8 – August 24). Whatever your taste, the place to stay is **The Keltic Lodge**, which offers spa/resort-style accommodations in an upscale, rustic atmosphere. There's nothing better than gazing out over the spectacular view of Cape Smokey rising out of the sea (in Adirondack chairs set discreetly away from the main action) after a hard day of spa-ing.

If you fly in to Nova Scotia, you'll de-plane in the capital city of **Halifax**, which combines the energy of an art-college town with the charm of a historic port. It's steeped in fascinating maritime history — did you know that many of the victims of the *Titanic* sinking rest here? Bodies were recovered by Halifax ships, as were artifacts now on permanent display at the popular **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, including the great liner's only extant deck chair, and part of the grand staircase. Nearby, the venerable **Nova Scotia College of Art & Design** (notable alums include **April Gornik**, **Kelly Mark** and **Sarah McLachlan**; profs include **Eric Fischl**, **Vito Acconci**, **Sol Lewitt**, **Dan Graham**, **Joseph Beuys** and **Claes Oldenburg**) is located near the provincial art museum, the **Nova Scotia Art Gallery**. The school's **Anna Leonowens Gallery** features rotating exhibitions of student work, so find out what the kids are up to these days, then immerse yourself in all things Canadian at the Art Gallery, whose collections include contemporary and historical Canadian and Inuit art, plus a special space devoted to beloved folk artist/icon **Maud Lewis**. **Argyle Fine Art**, often described as Halifax's most progressive gallery, is nearby, and be sure to stop at the **Mary E. Black Gallery** next door — if you thought you weren't interested in

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crafts, you're sure to be won over by their cutting-edge curatorial stance. If you need more art of the freshly minted variety, **Page & Strange** is just a few blocks away, featuring established artists from Toronto, Montreal and the States who have a connection here. We also recommend spending time at a Halifax institution, **Zwicker's Gallery**, which recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. It approximates a mini-Canadian museum, and they can ensure you're an expert before you leave, as owner **Ian Muncaster** is a treasury of knowledge.

The sidewalk cafes and open-air bars on **Argyle Street** offer a diverse array of menus. If you go for lunch, hang on to your table at noon — the cannon is fired from the historic **Citadel** every day and Haligonians (as the locals are known) set their watches by it. Despite their differences, all the cafes and restaurants of Halifax offer everyone's favorite brew, Keith's — the product of local brewery, **Alexander Keith's**, since 1820. The brewery building itself is a historic landmark worth its own tour, with an indoor mall boasting many unique stores. Our favorite eatery here is **Cheelin**, an humble but impeccable little place that serves authentic and delicious Chinese cuisine, a rarity (trust us) in Nova Scotia. For dinner, try one of the best (of many) seafood spots, **McKelvies**, set in a refurbished firehouse with dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides. For accommodations, we stay at the **Lord Nelson Hotel**. It serves nicely as a home base, with the famous Victorian-style **Public Gardens** steps away from its front door, and other city amenities within walking distance. Built in the 1920s, it was considered *the* place to stay for many years. After falling on hard times, it has recently had a \$10 million facelift, and we applaud the result. Bonus: the staff could not be more pleasant or helpful.

Time for some scenery with the emphasis on quaint — admit it, that's what you expected. A one-hour drive southwest from Halifax, and we stop for lunch in **Mahone Bay** at **The Innlet Café**. None other than **Margaret Atwood**, reigning grand dame of Canadian literature, calls it one of her favorite places to eat in the world! Try to arrive a bit early so that you can snag a window seat. The three antique churches across the Bay provide a dramatic backdrop and the seafood soup is excellent. Top it off with the Innlet's rice pudding — it has just a hint of maple syrup. (Be warned that most maple syrup-based dishes offered at restaurants in Nova Scotia come drenched in the stuff!) As for shopping, the village offers art, jewelry, and antiques, most within its main hub.

Next, it's a very short drive to UNESCO-designated heritage site **Lunenburg**. On a clear day, the view from the wharf is worth the short walk to the waterfront (park your car along one of the steeply terraced streets in deference to the horse-drawn carriages). At the wharf's entrance is the **Fishermen's Memorial & Tribute**, an homage to those lost at sea — a sculptural series of obelisks designed by the late artist **Greg Demone**, placed at compass points engraved with their names — beautiful and sobering. Architectural

Focus Nova Scotia

HOTELS & INNS

The Keltic Lodge, Middle Head Peninsula, Ingonish Beach, Tel. 800-565-0444, www.canadaselect.com/NovaScotia/CapeBretonTrails/KelticLodge.com. Although this signature resort has garnered many awards (*Condé Nast Travel & Leisure*, etc.), the room interiors are beginning to show their age; plan to spend most of your time on the grounds — the lodge sits on a cliff overlooking the ocean with a view of Cape Smokey rising up to greet you. The golf course is consistently rated #1 in Canada.

Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park Street, Halifax, Tel. 800-565-2020, www.lordnelson.com. While the lobby, pub, and summer patio are recently renovated (and beautiful), the guest rooms have a bit of faded grandeur feel. The location (and staff) make up for this, and the rates are very reasonable.

Tattingstone Inn, 620 Main Street, Wolfville, Tel. 800-565-7696, www.tattingstone.ns.ca. Lovely inn, with an intimate dining room.

The Blomidon Inn, 195 Main Street, Wolfville, Tel. 800-565-2291, www.blomidon.ns.ca. Another stunning Nova Scotian Victorian inn, this one a 29-room sea captain's mansion. If you don't stay overnight, at least stop in for afternoon tea, or a Sunday brunch.

Just B, 260 Prince Albert Road, Tel. 902-532-2392, Annapolis Royal, www.justblodging.ca. For those looking for a private cottage with an artful touch.

Queen Anne Inn, 494 Upper St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, Tel. 902-532-7850, www.queenanneinn.ns.ca. For a major dose of Victoriana during your trip, you can't beat the Queen Anne, from her stunning exterior to her beautifully appointed rooms and immaculate gardens. The rates are also hard to beat, even during tourist season. They will even make you "Lord of the Mansion" if you would like to rent the entire Inn for your party!

RESTAURANTS

Alexander Keith's, 1496 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Tel. 877-612-1820, www.keiths.ca. Home of Nova Scotia's favorite brew, you can take a costumed tour or just enjoy the pub.

Cheelin, 1496 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-422-2252, (inside the Brewery). Tiny restaurant, many choices — the best spot for Chinese in Halifax, possibly Nova Scotia.

McKelvies, 1680 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-421-6161, www.mckelvies.com. Go for the "delishes fishes dishes," the passion of restrauteur Robert McKelvie.

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The Innlet Café, 249 Edgewater Street, Mahone Bay, Tel. 902- 624-6363, www.innletcafe.com. We recommend the Mediterranean seafood stew, as well as the spectacular view.

Grand Pré Winery & Restaurant Le Caveau, 11611 Highway 1, Grand Pré, Tel. 902-542-7177, www.grandprewines.ns.ca. Winery, restaurant, art, vineyards, view...who needs more?

Tempest, 117 Front Street, Wolfville, Tel. 866-542-0588, www.tempest.ca. Chef Michael Howell is not afraid of experimentation and we've never been disappointed.

Roadside Grill, Highway 1, Belliveau Cove, Tel. 902-837-5047. Diner-style delicacies; the scallops are the hands-down favorite.

Chez Christophe, Highway 1, Grosses Coques, Tel. 902-537-5817, www.chezchristophe.ca. Homey food plus lots of local color via live entertainment.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-424-7542, www.agns.gov.ns.ca. Through September, you can catch *Painters in Paradise: The Bermuda Masterworks Collection*, an exhibition of 19th-20th-century paintings by master artists, inspired by the colors and architecture of Bermuda. Winslow Homer, Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, the list goes on... up to Jennifer Bartlett. Stop for a cappuccino at the Gallery's **Cheapside Café**, and pick up the show's catalogue (forward by patron HRH Prince Charles) at the **Gallery Shop**.

Saint Mary's University Art Gallery, 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue, Halifax, Tel. 902-420-5445, www.smu.ca. Constructed to the standards of the National Gallery of Canada, and opened in 1971, the gallery was the first purpose-built university art gallery in Halifax. The focus is on contemporary art, featuring emerging and established artists active on the regional, national and international levels, with occasional historical exhibitions to "provide depth and context." The permanent collection currently comprises over 1,500 individual works, primarily by contemporary Canadians, many representing artists associated with the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, such as Gerald Ferguson, Kelly Mark, Mitchell Wiebe, Lucy Pullen and Arthur Handy.

Cape Breton University Art Gallery, 1250 Grand Lake Road, Sydney, Tel. 902-563-1342, www.capebretonu.ca/artgallery. The bulk of the Art Gallery's permanent collections consists of modern and contemporary art by Canadian artists, including Molly Lamb Bobak, Jack Bush, Alex Colville, Goodridge Roberts, and Louise

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wonders here include the Gothic-style **St. John's Anglican Church**; and the **Lunenburg Academy**, an historic landmark and gingerbread-encrusted Victorian marvel that was built in 1895, and still houses an elementary school. For a stunning aerial view of the Academy, visit www.lunenburg.ednet.ns.ca. The shopping in Lunenburg tends toward the souvenir-trinket variety, so grab that plastic harmonica shaped like a lobster and let's cut across the province northward to the Nova Scotia wine country....

You heard right, wine country. It may not rival Napa, but the **Annapolis Valley** is gaining its own reputation. The microclimate, created by its sheltered location between two mountain ranges is, apart from British Columbia, the most temperate in Canada, and it attracts vintners and artists alike. Our favorite wine-and-art tour resides in the tiny village of **Bear River**, which also boasts daily high tides. Check the level of the river when you arrive — it could drop or rise as much as 30 feet by the time you leave. The **Visitors Information Centre** is located inexplicably in a Dutch windmill (which has nothing to do with the historic village, so don't ask!). They can provide you with a wineries brochure as well as a map to the artists' studios. Many of the artists are avid gardeners, and their studio settings will stun you at certain times of the year. Before you set out, stop at **The Flight of Fancy**, a couple doors down. The Flight, called "a superb source of Nova Scotia painting, sculpture and crafts" by *The New York Times*, is owned by artist and long-time local resident **Rob Buckland-Nicks**. The shop looks deceptively small from the outside, so be sure to allow time, and don't miss the upstairs gallery — that's where the contemporary art resides — downstairs is fine craft and hand-created textiles.

On to **Annapolis Royal**, about a half-an-hour away, where you will find yourself at ground-zero for British Loyalist (translation: they stayed loyal to the King during the American Revolution) culture. **Fort Anne National Historic Site**, whose fortifications still stand overlooking gorgeous views of the Allains River, is a big attraction. This area is called "the most fought-over piece of land in Canada," having served as host to a tug-of-war between the French and the Brits that lasted from the 1700s through the 1800s. Today, visiting the fort offers a pleasant walk, with an evening graveyard tour a highlight in the summer. Annapolis Royal is home to several enormous Victorian B&B's that line St. George Street, Canada's oldest urban avenue. The venerable **Queen Anne Inn** offers excellent accommodations, but we like to stay at the funky **Just B** (no breakfast!), run by papier-mache artist **Rion Microys**. Rion's sense of humor is evident everywhere, and the colorful guest room with its own kitchen provides a good base for a valley tour. If you don't fancy making your own breakfast, head just up the road to the **Annapolis Valley Country Club**. The restaurant's large windows afford a view of the golf course and beyond, and the chef is amenable to off-menu requests (ask for the salmon omelette). The course is open to the public, if you are so inclined. On a summer

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Saturday, be sure to stop at the **Farmers and Traders Market** for organic produce, fresh baked bread, antiques, art, and more. Watch for costumed strollers, including the town crier who will loudly proclaim the market officially open around 10 AM. Close at hand, you will find two artist-run potteries that offer their own unique wares: **Lucky Rabbit** and **Catfish Moon Studio**. Also nearby is **ARTsPLACE Gallery**, home to the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, an artist-run cooperative that presents work by top-notch artists from all over Canada, including installations created especially for the space. They also sponsor the popular *Paint the Town Festival* every August, wherein over 100 artists converge to produce plein-air pieces that are auctioned at day's end. The festival is so popular, in fact, that if you are planning to stay in Annapolis Royal in August, you are advised to book a room well in advance.

From Annapolis Royal to picturesque **Granville Ferry** is a short, scenic drive. If you are a shoe addict, this is a must for your itinerary. Staying on the main road, watch the bay side for a tiny shop with a wrought-iron outline of a boot hanging overhead. There is no other signage, but it signals you've arrived at shoemaker extraordinaire **Frederick Longtin's** studio and factory. If Fred is in, he can give you a tour. Here in a most out of the way place is the two-person shop that provides handmade shoes and boots for the casts of Broadway musicals (they currently keep the cast of *Wicked!* shod in outrageous boots of their own original design), operas (including those of the Met), and movies (they will proudly show you the pattern of Richard Gere's feet). You have to experience it to believe it.

In addition to Bear River, another area offering self-guided artists' studio tours is the **French Shore** (www.baiesaintemaire.com for a map). Descendants of the original 17th-century French settlers make up the vast majority of the population here, including the artists. They are called **Acadians** (the French settlement was dubbed Acadia by its founders) and you'll see their version of the French tri-color flag flying proudly everywhere you turn. Most of the Acadians, the first permanent European settlers in North America, were eventually expelled by the British (read Longfellow's epic poem, "*Evangeline*" for colorful commentary on the event). Many ended up in Louisiana, forming the Cajun ("Cajun" itself a corruption of "Acadian") community. For a slice of this local culture, plus great diner-style food, stop at the **Roadside Grill**. Order the scallops — a local delicacy — and be sure to ask for them pan-fried. As you sit gazing out at **St. Mary's (Maire's) Bay**, eavesdrop on nearby conversations. We guarantee you won't understand much — no matter how polished your French linguistic skills, Acadian French is its own unique hybrid. The place for dinner is **Chez Christophe**, set in a converted farmhouse that was built by chef/owner **Paul Comeau's** great-great-grandfather in 1837. Paul offers up new approaches to traditional local dishes in a home-style setting. Even though space is at a premium, there is dancing and fiddle music on

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Scott; plus a significant photography collection, including Robert Frank, André Kertész, Eadweard Muybridge, and Robert Demachy.

Anna Leonowens Gallery, Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD), 5163 Duke Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-494-8223, www.nscad.ns.ca. Named after NSCAD's Victorian founder — suffragette, author and controversial memoirist (as in, *Anna and the King of Siam*) — the Gallery is the public exhibition space and resource center of the renowned campus. Three public galleries are devoted to studio and media art, craft and design, plus curatorial projects generated within the university community.

ARTsPLACE Gallery, 396 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, Tel. 902-532-7069, www.arcac.ca. Three spaces of changing exhibitions.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-424-7490, www.museum.gov.ns.ca. Definitely on your itinerary if you're a *Titanic* junkie; plus loads of other sea-faring history in beautifully curated displays.

Argyle Fine Art, 1869 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-425-9426, www.argylefa.com. A variety of contemporary art by established and emerging Canadians.

Mary E. Black Gallery, 1061 Marginal Road, Halifax, Tel. 902-492-2522, www.craft-design.ns.ca. Cutting-edge crafts, by regional, national, and international artists and artisans.

Gallery Page & Strange, 1869 Granville Street, Halifax, Tel. 902-422-8995, www.pageandstrange.com. Presents the work of established artists from the States, Montreal and Toronto, who have a connection to Nova Scotia.

Zwicker's Gallery, 5415 Doyle Street, Tel. 902-423-7662, Halifax, www.zwickersgallery.ca. Everything Canadian, from Inuit to contemporary.

SHOPPING

The Flight of Fancy, Tel. 866-467-4171, 1869 Clementsvalle Road, Bear River, www.theflight.ca. "Excellent curated," says *The Lonely Planet*. An amazing array of art, fine craft, textiles, more.

Lucky Rabbit Pottery, 15 Church Street, Annapolis Royal, Tel. 902-532-0928, www.luckyrabbitpottery.ca. Gorgeous (and fun) ceramics. Everything from single tiles to entire place settings.

Catfish Moon Studio, 170 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, Tel. 888-378-3899, www.catfishmoon.com. Pottery line by the artists/owners, plus funky crafts by other local artists.

The Japanese Gallery, 8121 Highway 101, Barton, Tel. 902-245-2347, www.japanese-woodblockprints.ca. Suddenly, you're in old Japan. Museum-worthy netsuke, tea sets, dolls,

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furniture, and of course, prints.

The Guide to Craft & Art in Nova Scotia, Tel. 492-2522, www.craft-design.ns.ca. The Guide lists places to buy art and high-end craft items throughout the province, and tells you how to get to each venue, including galleries, retail shops, studios, etc. Call for your copy, or look for it at the Halifax Airport when you arrive. (You can even visit their website to download a copy.)

SPECIAL STOPS

Celtic Colours International Festival, 363 Charlotte Street, Sydney (events are located at venues throughout Cape Breton Island), Tel. 877-285-2321, www.celtic-colours.com. October 5-13. Concerts, workshops and exhibitions, where the culture has been nurtured for over 200 years, providing context for the roots of the music and celebrating each area's contribution to a living Celtic culture.

Halifax Public Gardens, 1606 Bell Road, www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca. Officially opened in 1867, the gardens are a rare example of a formal Victorian public garden surviving intact and relatively unspoiled in the heart of a city.

Frederick Longtin's shoe design studio and factory, Granville Ferry, Tel. 902-532-2233, by chance or by appointment. Worth going out of your way — but try to call ahead to avoid disappointment.

Annapolis Valley Country Club, 3816 Highway 1 (1 km west of Annapolis Royal), Tel. 902-532-2064, www.annapolisroyalgolf.com. You do not need membership to golf or enjoy the restaurant.

Fishermen's Memorial & Tribute, St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg Academy; stop at the Lunenburg Visitor Information Centre, Blockhouse Road, Lunenburg, Tel. 902-634-3170, or visit www.lunenburgns.ca.

Fort Anne National Historic Site, Annapolis Royal, Tel. 902-532-2397, www.pc.gc.ca. Open May-October. A very pleasant stroll, even if you're not a history buff; evening graveyard tours as well.

GETTING THERE

To get to Nova Scotia, you can fly via Air Canada, or any one of a number of U.S. service providers from major cities. We recommend you forget the internet and book your flight via a live, human travel agent — especially if you are flying from the west coast. Your itinerary could be complicated. If you are driving, your best bet is to catch the high-speed Cat Ferry (www.catferry.com) from either Portland or Bar Harbor, Maine. As of now, you do not need a passport on the Cat, but we don't leave home without ours.

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summer evenings. One warning for all Acadian eateries: the dish of much regional pride, rappie pie, is on every menu, and the waitstaff will want you to try it. We find it an acquired taste that we have yet to acquire!

Speaking of other cultures, do not miss **The Japanese Gallery** in **Barton**, just outside the French Shore on the bay side. Its intimate, Shinto-inspired teahouse houses museum-worthy art and artifacts with an emphasis on woodblock prints. Collector **Tom Haynes-Paton** lived in Japan for 25 years, and is an enthusiastic host and guide. We bought a historic print, along with a contemporary one, and Tom was extremely helpful with presentation ideas as well (www.japanesewoodblockprints.ca).

When heading back toward the Halifax airport, stay over in **Wolfville**, a charming college town (**Acadia University**) with almost as many stately B&B's as the above-mentioned Annapolis Royal. **The Blomidon** delivers in sheer size and over-the-top adornment; we prefer the more intimate and understated **Tattingstone Inn**. The Inn's restaurant rivals the best in town, and unlike many B&B's, you have the luxuries of your own table at breakfast in the airy atrium and fresh blueberries atop your French toast in season. When you venture out, we have two recommendations: either the **Grand Pré Winery**, featuring **Restaurant Le Caveau**, with amazing views of the Valley and Swiss cuisine (homemade noodles and schnitzel); or the always reliably adventurous **Tempest**, where chef **Michael Howell** was named one of Canada's eight hottest chefs last year. He continues to collect accolades. The menu is worldwide eclectic, so bring an empty stomach and open palate.

Some final words-to-the-wise as you plan your Nova Scotia sojourn. When consulting a map, even veteran tourists often reach the mistaken conclusion that the entire province can be "done" in a couple of days' time — don't believe it! On this virtual tour, we dropped in on just a few of our favorite must-stops. There are entire sections of the province that ended up on our cutting-room floor, only due to lack of space. Picture the square mileage of the whole area as roughly twice that of Massachusetts; plus you will linger on scenic lanes, with some rural areas offering less-than-ideal driving conditions (we lost a half-day on one tour due to a pothole-induced flat). So allow yourself plenty of travel time, which will give you options if the weather does not cooperate with your explorations, or your last-minute decision to detour and catch that special festival, performance, or exhibition. The scenery throughout is itself a work of art, worth the luxury of unhurried discovery.

Susan Malmstrom

Editors' Note: Susan and John Malmstrom are long-time **ARTexpress** family and have been indispensable throughout their residencies in California, Virginia and Canada. At the moment photographer Susan and painter John are the premiere members of the artists' colony at Bear River. If you go, don't miss their studios.

ART AROUND THE WORLD

News

How many new hotels can the **Las Vegas Strip** absorb — and do we care? You bet we do, because here come the big guns! The current batch of new developments proves that the question is no longer “how kitsch?” Now, it’s “how luxurious” and how far out there on the big-name architecture scale? Going up on the site of the old **Boardwalk Hotel and Casino**, between the **Bellagio** and the **Monte Carlo**, is the biggest gamble yet: **Project City Center**, a \$7 billion-plus complex, which will feature the **City Center Hotel and Casino** by **Cesar Pelli** (Segerstrom Hall, Pacific Design Center); **The Harmon Hotel/Residences** by **Foster Partners** (Sir Norman Foster); **Vdara Condo-Hotel** by **Rafael Viñoly**; **Veer** condo towers by Chicago’s **Helmut Jahn**; the **Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Residences** by **Kohn, Pederson Fox**; and 500,000 square feet of retail and entertainment space designed by **Daniel Liebskind** of Jewish Museum (Berlin) and Denver Art Museum fame. At last, amid the pseudo cities and pirate boats, Las Vegas — and in this case **MGM Mirage** — is putting its money on world-class architecture. Also in the running is **Echelon Place**, the \$4-billion-plus development on the site of the old **Stardust**. Among its four distinct properties will be the **Mondrian** and **Delano** hotels (imported from L.A. and South Beach respectively). Can Philippe Starck be far behind? The **Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center** by **Frank Gehry** (and his now defunct Guggenheim interior), plus the **Guggenheim Hermitage** by **OMA/Rem Koolhaas** may have been just a toe-in-the-water of a new Las Vegas. Nowhere in the U.S. are there more provocative commissions up for grabs.

Summer is rich in art offerings for visitors to **San Diego**. If you’ve not seen **MCASD’s** (Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego) new digs downtown — The **Joan and Irwin Jacobs Building** (the restored 1915 Santa Fe Depot baggage building reclaimed) and the **David C. Copley Building** — both by the master of understatement, **Richard Gluckman**, now is the time to go. In the exhibition *Robert Therrien*, the art-lover’s favorite *Alice in Wonderland* experience is on display: Therrien’s 8-foot-high-plus dining table and chairs that reduce adult visitors to two-year-old status. It was shown in the same location — then a downtown warehouse space — in **Insite 94**. Over in **Balboa Park**, there is a one-time-only opportunity to see the life work of the redoubtable **Eva Zeisel**, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, at the **Mingei International Museum**, and, next door, don’t miss the **San Diego Museum of Art’s** Contemporary Links 5 *Alex Arrerheja: Scalpel and Cotton* (through October 11). A great favorite of **ARTexpress** since our visit to Havana,

Great Addresses

IN LAS VEGAS

Joël Robuchon at the Mansion and L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon, MGM Grand, 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Tel. 702-891-7925. The Las Vegas focus on great chefs has no greater arrival than Robuchon. It has been noted that you’ll “need a small bank loan” to dine at the first and a “good win” at the slot machines to enjoy the latter, but our food critic referred to a Robuchon meal as a “sublime experience.” We hope your winnings are big!

Nove Italiano, Palms Casi Resort, Fantasy Tower, 4321 West Flamingo Road, Tel. 702-942-6800. On the fifty-first floor of the tower, Nove Italiano offers spectacular views of the glittering strip from its floor-to-ceiling windows guarded by statuesque topiary ladies. Happily, the food is high-flown, too! The signature spaghetti with over-the-top seafood — lobster, crab, scallops, shrimp and calamari — is prepared at the center of the room as a part of the culinary entertainment.

Guy Savoy, Caesar’s Palace, 3570 Las Vegas Blvd., South, Augustus Tower, 2nd floor, Tel. 877-346-4642. The Michelin three-star chef’s only restaurant in America, Guy Savoy is managed by the legendary chef’s son Frank Savoy. The French cuisine is superb here as well, and, in the capital of glitz, it is served in a serene, minimalist room designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, the noted French design magician who created, among many exquisite spaces, the elegant restaurant at the Louvre, Le Grand Louvre.

Red Rock Spa, Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa, 11011 West Charleston Blvd. (Summerlin) Tel. 866-782-0655, 702-797-7777. Need a break after all this fine food? Head where such rarefied visitors as George Clooney have been spotted taking the waters. It’s a holistic spa with a yoga garden, fitness center, steam rooms and plunge pools, plus hiking, horseback riding and biking are part of the adventure programs. A full body massage is the ultimate.

IN SAN DIEGO

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, 700 Prospect, La Jolla; 1100 Kettner, Downtown, Tel. 858-454-3541. While you’re exploring all the new pleasures downtown, don’t miss *Vik Muniz: Reflex*, in La Jolla through September 2. The show features more than 100 works by the enigmatic Brazilian artist, including the *Pictures of Chocolate*, *Pictures of Junk* and *Pictures of Pigment* series.

Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, Tel. 619-239-0003. Eva Zeisel is the world’s foremost industrial/ceramics designer and we’re willing to bet that you’ll recognize many of her iconic forms.

ART AROUND THE WORLD

Great Addresses...more

San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Tel. 619-232-7931. Stop for lunch in one of San Diego's favorite museum gardens and — speaking of gardens — don't miss *Impressionist Giverny: A Colony of Artists 1885-1915* — a special summer treat.

Chino's — The Vegetable Stand, 6123 Calzada del Bosque, Rancho Santa Fe, Tel. 858-756-3184. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM-3:30 PM; Sunday 10AM-1 PM.

Nuno at Material things, Art + Design Building, Suite 220, 7661 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, Tel. 858-551-0873. This is the only American outlet for the absolutely extraordinary fabrics by the Japanese firm Nuno. You will be floored by the creativity, by the design and craft that make these textiles works of art. In Kansas City, see them in the show-stopper jackets and scarves at Asiatica.

Old Globe Theater, Old Globe Summer Shakespeare Festival, 1363 Old Globe Way, Tel. Box Office 619-234-5623. Through September 30, in nightly rotation: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Hamlet* in the Lowell Davis Festival Theater.

IN PARIS

Musée du Quai Branly, 37, Quai Branly, Tel. 56 61 70 00. *The Anthropology Exhibition*, through December 25, 2007. *Special Collections: The Textiles Collection, The Photographic Collection, The Musicology Collection, The History Collection.*

FIAC: Grand Palais, Avenue Winston Churchill; **Cour Carrée du Louvre**, Rue de Rivoli, Tel. 33 141 90 48 45.

Paris Walking Tours, www.parismuse.com. If you think you've strolled from one end to the other of Europe's most walkable capital, try Paris Muse's walking tour Passy: Neighborhood of Invention. This low-key suburban neighborhood has been home to generations of famous residents; begin at the home of Honoré Balzac, see where Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning rod, and now, what you came for, the fabulous Art Nouveau masterpiece by Hector Guimard, Castle Beranger, and a great 1923 villa by Le Corbusier, now the headquarters of the Le Corbusier Foundation. Chic once again, the 16th has many hidden treasures. Private tour: 90 euros per person, two person minimum; entrances to Balzac home and Corbusier Foundation additional.

News...more

and one of the original Los Carpinteros, Alex will create works based on the museum's permanent collection, including a large-scale photo mural invoking **Diego Rivera's** *The Hands of Dr. Moore*; a large sculpture installation involving surveillance cameras and a projected image of Rivera's *Mandragora*, plus works on paper based on objects in the museum's Latin American collection. Save time for an evening at the *Old Globe Summer Shakespeare Festival* and the ultimate foodie market experience at **Chino's — The Vegetable Stand** — purveyor to California's finest restaurants, from **Chez Panisse** in **Berkeley**, to **Market Restaurant + Bar**. **Chino Farms** in **Rancho Santa Fe** is a food-world legend.

In **Paris**, everyone is talking about the amazing **Musee du Quai Branly**, which *The New York Times'* **Michael Kimmelman** has called the "most ambitious museum to open in Paris in 20 years." Very controversial because acquiring space to devote to non-European cultures required the demolition of two older but prized museums, and because of its long delay, visitors can now judge the success of what Kimmelman calls the "spectacle" wrought by **Jacques Chirac**. From Eskimo masks to Nigerian maternity figures, he mourns the objects' lost context. However, few can resist the stunning architecture of **Jean Nouvel**.

During your visit, plan on a respite at **Les Ombres**, the gorgeous restaurant on the fifth floor, with views of the **Eiffel Tower** through Nouvel's glass and black steel struts. Chef **Arno Busquet's** adventuresome cuisine tips its hat to the museum's African, Asian, and Polynesian collections and intriguing dishes fill the menu, which concludes with cheeses from the legendary **Quartrehomme** (arguably the city's best fromagerie).

It looks like Paris' renowned fair, **FIAC**, is on a roll again, so plan your visit to coincide with its October 18-22 dates. It is remarkable that this fair is held not in some edge-of-town exhibition hall, but in the very heart of the City of Light, in two of its grandest buildings, the newly restored **Grand Palais** and the great **Cour Carrée** of the **Louvre**. The fair focuses on 20th-century classics, high-quality international contemporary art and design (design was added in 2004 — the first contemporary fair to do so). Between the Cour Carrée and the magnificent Palais, the gardens of the **Tuileries** offer historic space for outdoor installations. It is probably safe to say that no fair can compete with this magical setting! Look, too, for the fair's exhibition that will feature the work of the four artists (not yet announced) short-listed for the **Marcel Duchamp Prize**.

ART EXPRESS ART EXPRESS

Calendar

July 12 - 15	Art Santa Fe
Through July 22	Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf <i>The Collector's Art</i>
Through July 29	Albright-Knox Museum, Buffalo <i>Francis Bacon: Paintings from the '50s</i>
Through July 29	Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney <i>Anselm Kiefer</i>
Through July 29	Kunstmuseum Bonn <i>John Baldessari: Music</i>
Through July 29	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York <i>Frank Stella: Painting into Architecture</i>
Through July 30	MOCA, Los Angeles <i>Richard Tuttle</i>
Through Aug. 5	Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston <i>Black Light, White Noise: Sound & Light</i>
Through Aug. 6	Guggenheim Museum, New York <i>Divisionism/Neo-Impressionism</i>
Through Aug. 11	Santa Monica Museum of Art <i>Identity Theft: Antin, Hershman & Lake</i>
Through Aug. 12	Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC <i>Wolfgang Tillmans</i>
Through Aug. 12	The Menil Collection, Houston <i>The David Whitney Bequest</i>
Through Aug. 13	MOCA, Los Angeles <i>MOCA Focus: Alexandra Grant</i>
Through Aug. 13	MOCA, Los Angeles <i>Poetics of the Handmade</i>
Through Aug. 19	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston <i>Edward Hopper</i>
Through Aug. 19	Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA <i>Joseph Cornell</i>
Aug. 24 - Jan. '08	Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek <i>Richard Avedon</i>
Through Aug. 26	CaixaForum, Barcelona <i>William Hogarth</i>
Through Aug. 26	Kunsthalle Bern <i>Allan Kaprow</i>
Through Aug. 26	Kunsthhaus, Zurich <i>Giacometti: En Route to the Avant-garde</i>
Through Aug. 26	National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa <i>Modernist Photographs</i>
Through Aug. 26	Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach <i>Mary Heilmann</i>
Through Aug. 26	Palais de Tokyo, Paris <i>Steven Parrino</i>
Through Aug. 26	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York <i>Lincoln Kirstein</i>
Through Aug. 27	Hayward Gallery, London <i>Antony Gormley: Blind Light</i>
Through Sept. 2	Hammer Museum, Los Angeles <i>Eden's Edge: Fifteen LA Artists</i>
Through Sept. 2	Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin <i>Lucian Freud</i>
Through Sept. 2	J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles <i>Oudry's Painted Menagerie</i>
Through Sept. 2	MCA Chicago <i>Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art From Mexico City</i>
Through Sept. 2	Tate Britain, London <i>How We Are: Photographing Britain</i>
Through Sept. 3	Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston <i>Philip-Lorca diCorcia</i>
Through Sept. 3	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. <i>Foto: Modernity in Central Europe, 1918-45</i>
Through Sept. 5	Guggenheim Museum, New York <i>The Shapes of Space</i>
Through Sept. 9	Castello di Rivoli, Turin <i>A Rose Has No Teeth: Bruce Nauman in the '60s</i>
Through Sept. 9	Haus Der Kunst, Munich <i>Gilbert & George</i>
Through Sept. 9	International Center of Photography, New York <i>Biographical Landscape: Stephen Shore</i>
Through Sept. 9	Kunstmuseum Basel <i>Jasper Johns: An Allegory of Painting 1955-1965</i>
Through Sept. 9	Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris <i>Kara Walker</i>
Through Sept. 9	Take Modern, London <i>Dali and Film</i>
Through Sept. 10	Dia: Beacon, New York <i>Sol Le Witt: Drawing Series</i>
Through Sept. 10	MOMA, New York <i>Richard Serra Sculpture: Forty Years</i>
Through Sept. 10	P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York <i>Peter Young</i>
Through Sept. 11	Museu D'Art Contemporani De Barcelona <i>A Theatre Without Theatre</i>
Through Sept. 16	Dallas Museum of Art Societe <i>Anonyme: Modernism for America</i>
Through Sept. 16	Jewish Museum, New York <i>Louise Nevelson: Constructing a Legend</i>
Through Sept. 6	SFMOMA, San Francisco <i>Matisse: Painter as Sculptor</i>
Through Sept. 16	SFMOMA, San Francisco <i>Martin Munkacsi: Think While You Shoot</i>
Through Sept. 17	Centre Pompidou, Paris <i>Annette Messager</i>
Through Sept. 17	Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin <i>Cindy Sherman</i>
Through Sept. 19	Musee d'Art Contemporain <i>Illusory Horizons: Ruscha - Bustamante</i>
Through Sept. 23	Art Institute of Chicago <i>Jeff Wall</i>
Through Sept. 23	Tate Liverpool <i>Peter Blake</i>
Through Sept. 24	Mori Art Museum, Tokyo <i>Le Corbusier: Art and Architecture</i>
Through Sept. 30	Philadelphia Museum of Art <i>Pop Art and Its Affiliates</i>
Through Oct. 14	Schaulager, Basel <i>Robert Gober: Work 1976-2007</i>
Through Oct. 21	Kunsthalle Rotterdam <i>International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam</i>
Through Oct. 21	Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh <i>Richard Long</i>
Through Nov. 4	Tate Modern, London <i>UBS Openings: Drawings from the UBS Collection</i>
Through Sept. 23	52nd Venice Biennale
Through Sept. 23	Documenta 12, Kassel, Germany
Through Sept. 30	Sculpture Project Munster 07
Sept. 5 - 9	Contemporary Istanbul
Sept. 28	Oct. 1 Preview Berlin - The Emerging Art Fair
Sept. 29	Oct. 3 Art Forum Berlin

Travel Bookshelf: Nova Scotia

Guides

Frommer's Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.
Fodor's Nova Scotia & Atlantic Canada.
 Dale Dunlop & Alison Scott. *Exploring Nova Scotia*, 2006.
 Tanya Lloyd Kyi. *Nova Scotia*, 2003.

History and Local Color

Cathleen Fillmore. *The Life of a Loyalist, A Tale of Survival in Old Nova Scotia*, 2004.
 M. Brook Taylor. *A Camera on the Banks: Frederick William Wallace and the Fishermen of Nova Scotia*, 2004.
 Steven Sora. *The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar: Solving the Oak Island Mystery*, 2003.
 Sally Ross. *The Acadians of Nova Scotia*, 1995.
 Thomas Chandler Haliburton. *The History of Nova Scotia*, 1973.
 Len Wagg. *Nova Scotia Landmarks*, 2004.

Art and Architecture

Malcolm Quantrill. *Plain Modern: The Architecture of Brian MacKay-Lyons*, 2005.
 Ian Mackay. *The Quest of the Folk: Antimodernism and Cultural Selection in Twentieth-Century Nova Scotia*, 2006.
 Steven Archibald & Sheila Stevenson. *Heritage Houses of Nova Scotia*, 2003.
 Bernard Riordan, *The AGNS Permanent Collection*, 2003.
 Robert Coles, et al. *Robert Frank: New York To Nova Scotia*, 2005.
 Mora O'Neill. *Paintings of Nova Scotia*, 2004.
 Mora O'Neill. *The Artists' Halifax: Portraits of the Town and Harbour through 250 Years*, 2003.
 Robert Tuck. *Churches of Nova Scotia*, 2004.

Fiction

Ann-Marie MacDonald. *Fall On Your Knees*, 1996.

Frank Parker Day. *Rockbound*, 1928, reissued 1973.
 Robert MacNeil. *Burden and Desire*, 1998.

And... strictly for fun
 Bill Richardson. *Dear Sad Goat*, 2002.